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simplified by an analytical table of contents and by short summaries at the conclusion of each chapter.

GEO. B. MANGOLD.

*Washington, D. C.*

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**Poor, Charles Lane.** *The Solar System.* Pp. x, 310. Price, \$2.00. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1908.

The character of this book is most clearly stated in the words of the author's preface, "An attempt was made to present the subject in untechnical language and without the use of mathematics, to show by what steps the precise knowledge of to-day has been reached, and to explain the marvelous results of modern methods and modern observations." The book therefore assumes a double character; for the student it becomes an unusually attractive text of both general and historical character; for the lay mind it represents the most readable exposition of the solar system yet published.

Most of the interest in the volume will naturally center round the discussion of Mars and its canals, topics which receive relatively more space than strict proportion would allot. The author fully justifies this action, however, by the admirably clear and forceful way in which he handles the much debated question. After carefully following the analysis of evidence for and against the existence of great and elaborate canal systems on our neighboring planet, no one could fail to agree with the conclusion that the objective reality of the canals has not yet been unquestionably established.

Frequent well-chosen illustrations add to the value of this volume which can be most highly commended both as a text-book and as a general exposition of the most important of astronomical phenomena.

WALTER SHELDON TOWER.

*University of Pennsylvania.*

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**Russell, Charles Edward.** *The Uprising of the Many.* Pp. xxiv, 364. Price, \$1.50. New York: Doubleday, Page & Co., 1907.

To the student of twentieth century democracy, this is a fascinating book. Mr. Russell has journeyed around the world, and has viewed, with the eyes of a journalist and socialist, what is newest in the age-long war against want and misery and oppression. First come co-operation and municipal trading in Great Britain; then a report on government railroads on the Continent, combined with a slashing attack on our system of private ownership. The interesting political and economic experiments of the vigorous Swiss democracy occupy the next three chapters. Plague, famine and pestilence in India, presented in some appalling figures, are credited, not to Malthus, but to autocracy and to the caste system which, we are warned, springs up wherever there is great power in the hands of a few men. The chapters on Japan are illuminating, punctuated as they are with this often-repeated warning of the yellow peril: "She has a government that does not hesitate to supplant individual with government enterprise, and she has a

working population, intelligent, capable, facile, industrious, orderly, and with a low standard of living." These chapters furnish food for reflection.

Australia and New Zealand fill the last third of the book with compulsory arbitration, minimum wage laws, compulsory repurchase of land, woman suffrage, state interference and economic heresy on the right hand and on the left. And yet Mr. Russell seems to think that the Australians are pretty well pleased with their experiments and are really succeeding in the trying business of self-government.

The book as a whole is refreshing in its sturdy faith in the common people and its evidence of their ability to solve the problems of the common good, once wealth and privilege can be compelled to give them a chance to try. While Mr. Russell's socialistic faith may not be shared in its entirety by most readers, while his book may be criticised as sketchy and incomplete, a work for the general reader rather than the scholar, no one can deny that he has brought together a body of facts unfamiliar to most Americans, and calculated to shake their confidence that the United States has everything to teach and nothing to learn in the school of democratic government. Whoever dips into this book will read it through; before he has finished it he will have done some hard thinking. Perhaps he will be none the worse that some of his formulas have been disturbed.

H. R. MUSSEY.

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**Scott-Elliot, G. F.** *Chile*. Pp. xx, 357. Price, \$3.00. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, Importers, 1907.

Mr. Elliot has performed the same service for Chile as Mr. Enock for Peru in his recent book, "The Andes and the Amazon." He has, however, planned the work on a more ambitious scale, and enters with considerable detail into the early history of the country, devoting the first seven chapters to the period prior to 1700. The last nine chapters are devoted to a description of the economic, social and political conditions of modern Chile. In these chapters the author shows the same industry that characterized the earlier historical chapters, but it is also evident that he has failed to go very far below the surface in his analysis of political and social conditions. He does not bring out clearly the far-reaching influence of the triumph of parliamentary government in 1891 on the form and operation of the country's political system.

The chapters dealing with social customs and conditions are most interesting and give evidence of a keen power of observation. In this book we have the first step toward a study of South American social conditions, and it is to be hoped that the author will undertake similar studies in the other republics.

In the concluding chapter Mr. Elliot presents an enthusiastic picture of the future possibilities of Chile. In this estimate he fails to take into

<sup>1</sup>"The Andes and the Amazon." C. Reginald Enock.